

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 7, 2006.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 57 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 10, 19, 28, 37, 46 and 55 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30, 38, 39, 47, 48, 56 and 57 have been canceled and Claims 1, 10, 19, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 34, 35, 37, 40, 43, 44, 46, 49, 52, 53 and 55 have been amended. No new subject matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the present amendment.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 29, 30, 38, 39, 47 and 48 contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

However, the Examiner indicates that Claims 20, 21, 56 and 57 are objected to on the Office Action Summary, but there is no mention of Claims 20, 21, 56 and 57 in the detailed action portion of the Office Action. Consequently, since Claims 20, 21, 56 and 57 recite similar limitations as Claims 2 and 3, it is respectfully assumed that the objection to these claims is in error.

Therefore, Claims 20, 21, 56 and 57, are believed to contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and thus is treated as such hereinafter.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 4 – 8, 10, 13 – 17, 19, 22 – 26, 28, 31 – 35, 37, 40 – 44, 46, 49 – 53 and 55 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4 – 8, 10, 13 – 17, 19, 22 – 26, 28, 31 – 35, 37, 40 – 44, 46, 49 – 53 and 55 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,674,874 issued to Yoshida et al.

In response, Claims 1, 10, 19, 28, 37, 46 and 55 have been amended to include all the limitations recited in Claims 3, 12, 21, 30, 39, 48 and 57, respectively. Therefore, since amended Claims 1, 10, 19, 28, 37, 46 and 55 recited limitations, which have been found to be patentably distinct and allowable by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection with respect to these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Additionally, Claims 22, 25, 26, 31, 34, 35, 40, 43, 44, 49, 52, 53 have been amended to remove confusion resulting from amendments made to the independent claims from which these claims depend. Specifically, the numbering of each step using alphabetic characters has been deleted.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1, 4 – 10, 13 – 19, 22 – 28, 31 - 37, 40 – 46 and 49 – 55 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Esatto, Jr.
Registration No. 30,749

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza - Ste. 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

PJE:DAT:jam